

# Comparisons of two proteomic analyses of non-mucoid and mucoid *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* clinical isolates from a cystic fibrosis patient

Jayasimha Rao<sup>1†‡</sup>, F. Heath Damron<sup>1†</sup>, Marek Basler<sup>2</sup>, Antonio DiGiandomenico<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas E. Sherman<sup>1,3</sup>, Jay W. Fox<sup>1,3</sup>, John J. Mekalanos<sup>2</sup> and Joanna B. Goldberg<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, VA, USA

<sup>2</sup> Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

<sup>3</sup> W.M. Keck Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Core, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, VA, USA

## Edited by:

Dara Frank, Medical College of Wisconsin, USA

## Reviewed by:

Sam Moskowitz, Massachusetts General Hospital, USA

Shama Mirza, Medical College of Wisconsin, USA

## \*Correspondence:

Joanna B. Goldberg, Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, 7230 Jordan Hall, 1300 Jefferson Park Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0734, USA.  
e-mail: jbg2b@virginia.edu

## †Current address:

Jayasimha Rao, Section of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Carilion Clinic and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, VA 24014, USA.

‡Jayasimha Rao and F. Heath Damron have contributed equally to this work.

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* chronically infects the lungs of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients. The conditions in the CF lung appear to select for *P. aeruginosa* with advantageous phenotypes for chronic infection. However, the mechanisms that allow the establishment of this chronic infection have not been fully characterized. We have previously reported the transcriptional analysis of two CF isolates strains 383 and 2192. Strain 2192 is a mucoid, alginate overproducing strain whereas strain 383 is non-mucoid. Mucoid strains are associated with chronic infection of the CF lung and non-mucoid strains are the typical initially infecting isolates. To elucidate novel differences between these two strains, we employed two methods of shotgun proteomics: isobaric tags for relative and absolute quantitation (iTRAQ) and two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE). iTRAQ compares the amount of protein between samples and relies on protein abundance, while 2-DE gel electrophoresis depends on selection of separated protein spots. For both these methods, mass spectrometry was then used to identify proteins differentially expressed between the two strains. The compilation of these two proteomic methods along with Western blot analysis revealed proteins of the HSI-I operon of the type 6 secretion system, showed increased expression in 383 compared to 2192, confirming the our previous transcriptional analysis. Proteomic analysis of other proteins did not fully correlate with the transcriptome but other differentially expressed proteins are discussed. Also, differences were noted between the results obtained for the two proteomic techniques. These shotgun proteomic analyses identified proteins that had been predicted only through gene identification; we now refer to these as “proteins of unknown functions” since their existence has now been established however their functional characterization remains to be elucidated.

**Keywords:** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, cystic fibrosis, alginate, iTRAQ, 2-DE, type 6 secretion

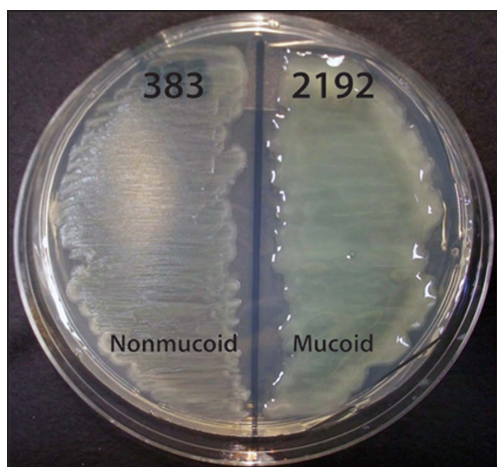
## INTRODUCTION

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a Gram-negative bacterium that is both a ubiquitous environmental organism and an important opportunistic pathogen of humans. *P. aeruginosa* can cause infections in compromised individuals such as those suffering from burns, AIDS, patients undergoing treatment for cancer, or those with cystic fibrosis (CF). *P. aeruginosa* infection of the CF airway leads to high mortality and morbidity.

The mucoid phenotype of *P. aeruginosa* is one of the most extensively researched characteristics of this species (Govan and Deretic, 1996; Ramsey and Wozniak, 2005). Mucoid strains overproduce the exopolysaccharide called alginate (Figure 1). Alginate is an unbranched linear polymer of partially acetylated  $\beta$ -D-mannuronic acid and its C5 epimer  $\alpha$ -L-guluronic acid. Alginate synthesis begins in the cytoplasm and ends with secretion to the extracellular milieu. The *algD* alginate biosynthetic operon (containing *algD844KEGXLIIIFalgA*; Chitnis and Ohman, 1993) and gene *algC* (Zielinski et al., 1991) encode enzymes required for

synthesis of alginate. The biosynthetic genes are controlled by the extracytoplasmic function alternative sigma factor  $\sigma^{22}$  (also known as AlgT or AlgU), which is repressed by the transmembrane anti-sigma factor MucA (Martin et al., 1993). Mutation of *mucA* causes unregulated  $\sigma^{22}$  to activate alginate production (Martin et al., 1993). Recently, proteolytic degradation of MucA has also been recognized as a mechanism for alginate production (Qiu et al., 2008; Damron et al., 2009b; Wood and Ohman, 2009; Damron and Yu, 2011). When  $\sigma^{22}$  is free and active, due to *mucA* mutation or MucA proteolytic degradation, alginate overproduction will occur. In addition to increased expression of genes,  $\sigma^{22}$  is also known to repress gene expression as well (Wu et al., 2004; Tart et al., 2005; Jones et al., 2010).

Ineffective clearance of *P. aeruginosa* in the environment in the CF lung has been suggested to result in the conversion to the mucoid, alginate over-expressing phenotype, which provides these bacteria additional protection from antibiotics and phagocytic killing (Govan and Deretic, 1996; Lyczak et al., 2002). Mucoid



**FIGURE 1 | Phenotypes of *P. aeruginosa* CF isolates 383 and 2192 on L agar media.** Streaks of strains 383 and 2192 were cultured on L agar for 24 h at 37°C. These two strains were isolated within 2 days apart from a CF patient. Previous data indicated these strains are isogenic (Hanna et al., 2000). The genome of strain 2192 has been sequenced<sup>1</sup> (Mathee et al., 2008).

variants of *P. aeruginosa* effectively establish themselves as dominant pathogens in chronic lung diseases of CF patients (Lyczak et al., 2002). However, many other factors in addition to alginate overproduction have been described which contribute to the lung infection of CF patients (Hogardt and Heesemann, 2010).

Transcriptome analysis of *P. aeruginosa* via microarray has provided valuable insights into gene regulation of *P. aeruginosa* on a global level (Goodman and Lory, 2004). In addition, mass spectrometry provides proteomic analysis. In earlier studies with *P. aeruginosa*, protein identification has been performed using a qualitative approach for the identification of proteins by two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE) followed by tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) method (Quadroni et al., 1999; Malhotra et al., 2000; Sherman et al., 2001; Nouwens et al., 2003; Arevalo-Ferro et al., 2005; Sriramulu et al., 2005; Sharma et al., 2006). A sub-proteomic approach has led to identification and characterization of the periplasmic, membrane, or secreted *P. aeruginosa* proteins as potential virulence factors (Nouwens et al., 2003; Wehmhoner et al., 2003; Blonder et al., 2004; Imperi et al., 2009). Recently, *P. aeruginosa* gene products were identified by using collective data from proteomic, transcriptional profiling, and signature-tagged mutagenesis (Platt et al., 2008). Quantitative proteomics have been developed using isotope labeling of peptides in a method known as isobaric tags for relative and absolute quantitation (iTRAQ; Lacerda et al., 2008). Most transcriptome and proteomic analysis of *P. aeruginosa* have been performed on laboratory strains (Firoved et al., 2002; Wood et al., 2006; Damron et al., 2009a) along with a few studies with CF isolates (Hanna et al., 2000; Rau et al., 2010).

Our laboratory has previously performed proteomic studies of clinical isolates of *P. aeruginosa* strains 383 (non-mucoid)

and 2192 (mucoid; **Figure 1**), which were isolated from sputum samples obtained from an individual with CF (Hanna et al., 2000). Using PAO1 GeneChip arrays, we determined at least 188 genes differ in expression between non-mucoid strain 383 and mucoid strain 2192 (Rao et al., 2008). Since that time, the genome of 2192 has been sequenced<sup>2</sup> (Mathee et al., 2008); pangenome analysis has been performed and indicates niche adaptation is the force that drives the composition of *P. aeruginosa* genomes (Mathee et al., 2008).

Our hypothesis is that many other factors or systems, which may contribute to the disease in CF are altered in expression between mucoid and non-mucoid strains. In the present study, we have taken a global approach to detect the novel differences between the strains 383 and 2192 by using the shotgun proteomic methods of both iTRAQ and 2-DE. Total whole cell proteins were subjected to iTRAQ for quantification. In addition, total whole cell lysates and Triton X-114 soluble proteins were separated by 2-DE gel electrophoresis. Our data are consistent with the observations of an inverse relationship between the mucoid phenotype and the type 6 secretion system (T6SS). This suggests that the T6SS may be associated with non-mucoid infection strains but repressed in mucoid infection strains. Furthermore, iTRAQ and 2-DE proteomic analysis detected proteins that had only been predicted by gene identification of open reading frames (ORF) with no known homologs. We now refer to these “hypothetical” and “conserved hypothetical” proteins as “proteins of unknown function” (PUF) and determined that some are differentially expressed in the acute and chronic phenotypic strains of *P. aeruginosa*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### BACTERIAL STRAINS AND GROWTH CONDITIONS

The bacterial strains used in this study, *P. aeruginosa* strains 383 and 2192, are non-mucoid and mucoid, respectively. These strains were isolated 2 days apart from the sputum of the same CF patient (Hanna et al., 2000). Bacterial cultures were grown overnight in Luria Bertani (LB) medium at 37°C in shaking (200 rpm), diluted to 1:100 in 30 ml of fresh media, and grown to mid-log phase, to an optical density (OD<sub>600</sub>) of 0.5.

### iTRAQ ANALYSIS

Total proteins were extracted from strains 383 and 2192 using Tris-EDTA buffer (10 mM Tris; pH 8.3, 5 mM EDTA). Briefly, 10 ml of each bacterial culture of 0.5 (OD<sub>600</sub>) were harvested by centrifugation and cell pellets were resuspended in 1.0 ml of Tris-EDTA buffer containing 50 µl of cocktail protease inhibitors (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), and 1 µl (5000 units) of benzonase (Sigma). The cells were disrupted by sonication on ice four to five times for 30 s with a micro-tip probe, then incubated at room temperature for 1 h, followed by centrifugation at 6000 × g for 15 min at 4°C. Supernatant solution was transferred to a microfuge tube and the protein concentration was estimated by Bradford method using Bio-Rad protein assay reagent (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). Approximately 1 mg of protein was precipitated with

<sup>1</sup><http://www.broad.mit.edu>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.broad.mit.edu>

10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) at 4°C for 1 h and centrifuged at  $20,800 \times g$  for 10 min, followed by washing three times with cold acetone. Analytical replicate samples from each strain were used for iTRAQ labeling [Applied Biosystems Inc. (ABI), Foster City, CA, USA].

One analytical separation was performed with replicate samples of each strain (383 and 2192). Samples were reduced, digested, labeled, and combined per ABI's standard protocol. Pooled samples were subjected to MS/MS for peptide/protein identification after strong cation exchange (SCX) chromatographic fractionation. iTRAQ reagents are isobaric in nature and thus yield similar  $m/z$  for the same peptide for the first stage of MS, when labeled with either 114, 115, 116, or 117 tags. Briefly, 100  $\mu\text{g}$  of proteins from each strain were resuspended in dissolution buffer (0.5 M triethyl ammonium bicarbonate, TEAB), and then reduced, alkylated, digested, and labeled according to ABI's standard protocol. Briefly, 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of dissolution buffer, 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of denaturing solution (2% SDS), and 2  $\mu\text{l}$  of the reducing agent (Tris 2-carboxyethyl phosphine) were added to each protein-containing tube and incubated for 1 h at 60°C. At the end of this reduction process, proteins were brought to room temperature and the samples were alkylated by addition of 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of cysteine blocking reagent [200 mM methyl methanethiosulfonate (MTT) in isopropanol] and incubation for 10 min at room temperature. The reduced and alkylated protein samples were digested with sequencing-grade modified porcine trypsin that was reconstituted with Milli Q water; 5 mg trypsin was added to each tube and incubated overnight at 37°C. The peptide samples were labeled as follows: 383-A peptides were labeled with 114, 2192-A with 115, 383-B with 116, and 2192-B with 117. Each labeling was done in 70  $\mu\text{l}$  of ethanol at room temperature for 1 h (according to manufacturer's instructions). Equivalent aliquots (77  $\mu\text{g}$ ) of each labeled peptide solution were pooled in a fresh tube and then dried completely in a vacuum centrifuge. These pooled, tryptic-labeled peptide samples were desalted as per manufacturer's protocol prior to SCX chromatographic fractionation. The entire sample was reconstituted in buffer A [10 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , pH 2.93, 25% acetonitrile (ACN)] and loaded onto a Pharmacia Mono S, 5 mm  $\times$  50 mm (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) column, and peptides were eluted with a linear gradient of 0–100% buffer B (10 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , pH 2.73, 25% ACN, and 1 M KCl) over 20 min. For the MS/MS analysis, four fractions (8–11) were selected based on the UV peptide elution profile recorded at absorbance of  $\text{OD}_{280}$ , and dried samples were stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  (Figure S1 in Supplementary Material).

Each SCX fraction was reconstituted in loading buffer (98:2, water/ACN, 0.1% acetic acid) and peptides were separated by reverse phased chromatography. Two microliter of each fraction were loaded onto an in-house LC column packed with 7.5 cm of Gemini 5  $\mu\text{m}$  packing material; the column was washed for 10 min with 1% acetic acid, and the sample was introduced into a QStar mass spectrometer (ABI) via a Tempo nano-LC pumping system. The LC gradient moved from 98% solvent A (0.1 M acetic acid) to 80% solvent B (a mixture of 90% ACN, 10% solvent A) over 120 min, with a flow rate of 250 nL/min. The QStar Elite was run with 3300 V electrospray voltage and a curtain gas setting of 17. The scans were set to collect one MS scan followed by the product ion scans of the three most intense ions from the MS scan.

During MS/MS analysis, peptides are fragmented with appropriate collision energy, and generate a product that corresponded to reporter ions from 114, 115, 116, and 117  $m/z$  and peptide fragment ions, from which amino acid sequences were deduced. This MS/MS spectrum provides the data for protein identification and quantification. The resulting data were analyzed using ProteinPilot software 4.0 (ABI) with the Paragon search engine to search the *Pseudomonas* protein database of strain PAO1<sup>3</sup>. The default search settings used for quantitative processing and protein identification allowed for trypsin cleavage sites lysine and arginine, and the cysteine residues were blocked and alkylated with methyl methanethiosulfonate as described in the iTRAQ protocol. Protein detection threshold was set at 95% peptide confidence level. All four of the data files were concatenated into a single file for analysis and quantitation. Peptide quantification was carried out using ProteinPilot, which computes the area under the peaks at 114, 115, 116, and 117 Da, corresponding to the four iTRAQ reagents. The ratio between proteins was calculated by using each dataset as a denominator and shown in File S1 in Supplementary Material.

#### TOTAL PROTEIN EXTRACTIONS AND TRITON SAMPLE PREPARATIONS FOR 2-DE GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

For 2-DE proteome analysis, total cellular proteins were extracted from strains 383 and 2192 by using Chaotropic Membrane Extraction Reagent 2 (Sigma; 5.0 M Urea, 2.0 M thiourea 40 mM Trizma<sup>TM</sup> base, 2.0% CHAPS, and 2.0% SB3-10, pH 10.1), followed by reduction and alkylation procedures, as previously described (Herbert et al., 1998; Molloy et al., 1998). Briefly, 10 ml of 0.5 ( $\text{OD}_{600}$ ) cultures were harvested by centrifugation and cell pellets were resuspended in 2.0 ml of Chaotropic Membrane Extraction Reagent 2 containing 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of protease inhibitors (Sigma), 1  $\mu\text{l}$  of benzamide (Sigma), and 80  $\mu\text{l}$  of tributylphosphine (TBP; Sigma) to get a final concentration of 5 mM in the total volume. Cell suspensions were disrupted by sonication with a micro-tip probe for 4–5 min on ice, followed by centrifugation at  $6000 \times g$  for 15 min at 4°C for supernatant collection, and removal of unbroken cells. Further, the reduced proteins were alkylated by adding 23  $\mu\text{l}$  of iodoacetamide (Sigma) to a final concentration of 15 mM. This mixture was incubated for 90 min at room temperature in the dark. Protein concentration was determined by the Bradford method, and sample aliquots were stored at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  until use. Triton X-114 extractions were performed as described previously (Bordier, 1981), with slight modifications. Two ml bacterial pellets from 0.5  $\text{OD}_{600}$  cultures were collected from strains 383 and 2192. Proteins were extracted by solubilizing in 2 ml of 1.7% Triton X-114 (Sigma) in  $1 \times$  phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.4; PBS) with 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of protease inhibitors (Sigma) by gentle rocking at 4°C for 2 h. Insoluble cell debris was removed by centrifugation at  $6000 \times g$  for 15 min at 4°C and the Triton X-114 solubilized proteins were collected by transferring supernatants to fresh microcentrifuge tubes, adding PBS to reduce the concentration of Triton X-114 to 1%, and incubating at 30°C for 3 min. The resulting cloudy solutions were partitioned into aqueous and detergent phases by centrifugation at  $300 \times g$  for 3 min

<sup>3</sup><http://www.pseudomonas.com>

at room temperature. The upper aqueous phase was transferred to a fresh tube and re-extracted three times following the above procedure. The lower partitioned detergent phase was pooled from each extract and washed with cold  $1 \times$  PBS. Finally, total extract, aqueous partitioned, and detergent partitioned proteins were precipitated with cold acetone (1:10, v/v) overnight at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Acetone precipitated proteins were collected after centrifugation at  $20,800 \times g$  for 15 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and protein samples were subjected to 2-DE gel electrophoresis. The protein samples were prepared for electrophoresis in Chaotropic Membrane Extraction Reagent 2 (Sigma) by reduction and alkylation procedures performed as described earlier. Protein concentrations of each sample were determined by the Bradford method and samples were stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until use.

All protein preparations were subjected to 2-DE analysis by using PROTEAN<sup>®</sup> IEF Cell (Bio-Rad). One hundred fifty microgram of proteins were solubilized in rehydration buffer (Bio-Rad) containing 9 M urea, 2% Triton X-100, 2% Pharmalyte pH 3–10 (Pharmacia), 2%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, bromophenol blue, and TBP (20 mM) was added. Total proteins were applied on each immobilized pH gradient (IPG) strip (isoelectric point [pI] of 3–10 NL, 11 cm) from Bio-Rad, and active rehydration was carried out for 12–15 h under low-viscosity paraffin oil. Proteins were first separated by IEF with the following voltage/time profile: a linear step for 0–500 V for 15 min, 500–8000 V up to a total of 30,000 V/h. After completing the isoelectrofocusing (IEF), strips were incubated with equilibration buffer (3.7 g of Tris base, 150 ml of 10% SDS, 57.5 ml of glycerol, 7.71 g of DTT and 0.2 g of bromophenol blue, and made to 500 ml distilled  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) for 15–30 min. For the second dimension, proteins were resolved on 8–16% SDS-PAGE (Criterion gels) with Dodeca cell system from Bio-Rad at 100 V. Gels were stained with silver or with Bio-Safe Coomassie (Bio-Rad). Stained gels were scanned using HP scanner and images were stored as tagged image files (TIFF) files. All the cored spots from silver and Coomassie were characterized by either peptide mass mapping (PMM) or tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) for protein identification.

#### PROTEIN IDENTIFICATION BY TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETRY (MS/MS)

The selected individual protein spots were cut out of the stained gels and were submitted to the W. M. Keck Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at the University of Virginia Biomedical Research Facility for analysis, as described elsewhere (Hanna et al., 2000). Data was analyzed by using the SEQUEST (ThermoFinnigan) search algorithm against *Pseudomonas* genome deposited with National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

#### GENERATION OF T6SS ANTIBODIES

Rabbit polyclonal antibodies were raised and purified against synthetic peptides CLASAPKPKDDEPQA for TssB1 (PA0083), CVDGDPAHSTETTKA for TssC1 (PA0084), KYIDKSTPNLM-MAC for Hcp1 (PA0085; GenScript, Piscataway, NJ, USA).

#### WESTERN BLOT ANALYSIS OF T6SS PROTEINS

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains (383 and 2192) were grown on L agar overnight at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Cells were scraped of the plates and suspended in L broth. Starting cultures were matched to an  $\text{OD}_{600}$

of 0.1 and then diluted 1:1 with L broth. Five milliliter of culture were rotated at 100 rpm  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h until the strains were at  $\text{OD}_{600}$  of 0.5. Cultures were streaked onto L agar to ensure non-mucoid and mucoid phenotypes were maintained during log growth. Cell suspensions were matched and diluted in  $2 \times$  Laemmli buffer. Samples were frozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until separated on 12% polyacrylamide SDS-PAGE and then transferred to  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$  nitrocellulose. Blocking and probing of membranes were performed with 5% skim milk in phosphate buffered saline. Polyclonal antibodies for T6SS proteins were diluted 1:500 and monoclonal antibodies to RpoA (Neo-clone). Secondary antibodies with horseradish peroxidase were diluted 1:3000. Amersham Advanced ECL chemiluminescent substrate utilized for T6SS blots and Amersham ECL was used for RpoA blots. Amersham ECL hyper film was exposed for 1 min to probed membranes and developed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### iTRAQ ANALYSIS OF THE PROTEOMES OF STRAINS 383 AND 2192

Early *P. aeruginosa* isolates taken from the CF airway are generally non-mucoid and resemble environmental strains. Strains 383 and 2192 have been classified as isogenic (Hanna et al., 2000). Strain 383 is non-mucoid and thus represents an initially infecting isolate, while 2192 is mucoid and represents a chronically infecting isolate. To discover the proteomic differences in these two CF isolates, iTRAQ analysis and quantitation was performed. This approach is a “gel-free” mass spectrometry technique that uses isobaric amine-specific tags to compare the peptide intensities between samples and infer quantitative values for corresponding proteins. Two analytical replicates of protein preparations from each strain were subjected to digestion and iTRAQ labeling, followed by MS/MS analyses. Expression data were compiled by scoring of peptides with 99% confidence using ProteinPilot software version 4. Proteins were identified on the basis of having at least one distinct peptide with threshold of 1% false positive rate using the ProteinPilot search algorithm against all bacterial and non-redundant database entries deposited with NCBI. In this study we report the identification of 399 proteins (above 95% confidence) from 5690 peptides. The relative quantification data were obtained for 297 proteins between strains 383 and 2192. Of the quantified 297, 81 proteins showed significant *p* values in either one or both iTRAQ replicates (File S1 in Supplementary Material). In comparison with earlier studies of other *P. aeruginosa* strains (Guina et al., 2003; Wu et al., 2005), here we have observed similar numbers differentially expressed proteins.

Isobaric tags for relative and absolute quantitation analysis of the proteomes of 383 and 2192 identified 297 proteins differentially regulated (Table S1A and File S1 in Supplementary Material). The 297 quantified proteins can be grouped into three categories: (1) 67 proteins (23%) showed higher expression in the non-mucoid strain, 383, (2) 77 proteins (26%) in showed higher expression in the mucoid strain, 2192, and (3) 153 proteins (51%) showed no difference in relative expression between the non-mucoid and mucoid strains (Table S1A in Supplementary Material).

Bioinformatics analysis of the 297 proteins recognized from iTRAQ analysis allowed functional classifications as defined by the

*Pseudomonas* Genome Database<sup>4</sup> (Winsor et al., 2009; **Table 1** and **File S2** in Supplementary Material). The distribution of proteins observed showed representatives of almost all of the functional classes identified suggest iTRAQ analysis. However, this may represent a shallow sampling of the proteome and may also define the limits of detection. No proteins corresponding to the functional classes of antibiotic resistance and susceptibility, chemotaxis, or phage proteins were detected in the analysis, but proteins assigned to the other 23 functional classes were identified. Proteins representing 16% the amino acid biosynthesis and metabolism class were observed. Interestingly most of the proteins of this class were expressed at equal levels between the two strains. We would expect that a mucoid *P. aeruginosa* strain, such as 2192 would have increased expression of proteins corresponding to the cell wall/LPS/capsule class. iTRAQ analysis indicated four proteins of this class were upregulated in strain 2192 (**Table 1**). Furthermore the mucoid phenotype would place a demand on metabolism pathways to overproduce alginate. Eight proteins of the central intermediary metabolism class were upregulated in mucoid strain 2192 (**Table 1**). However, the protein class of energy metabolism

has an equal number of increased and decreased proteins and 13 proteins equally expressed. If iTRAQ analysis properly represents the proteome, it would be expected that some classes of proteins would not be discordant. Seven proteins of the associated with DNA maintenance were equal expressed between the two strains (**Table 1**).

The bacterial membrane is the largest single structure of a bacterium. Moreover, homeostasis is maintained by upholding the integrity of this structure. In our iTRAQ analysis of the two CF isolates, we noted a total of 12 proteins (19.4% of the entire class), which correspond to the fatty acid and phospholipid metabolism class (**Table 1**). Since membrane integrity is paramount for bacteria, we would predict this class would be highly represented in a distribution of the total proteome. Another validation of the iTRAQ analysis was the identification of differential expression of transcriptional regulators and transcriptional machinery (**Table 1**). Transcriptional regulators are rarely expressed at high levels. Therefore, identification of these regulators via iTRAQ suggests the analysis was able to detect at least some proteins that may be of relatively low abundance. Conversely translational machinery would likely represent a high amount of the peptide concentration within a total protein lysate. iTRAQ analysis

<sup>4</sup>www.pseudomonas.com

**Table 1 | Distribution and PseudoCAP functional classification of proteins identified in CF strains 383 and 2192 by iTRAQ analysis.**

PseudoCAP functional class (total no. in class)	2192/383 iTRAQ expression			Total proteins identified	Percentage of functional class
	Increased expression	Decreased expression	Equal expression		
Adaptation and protection (179)	1	0	6	7	3.9
Amino acid biosynthesis and metabolism (242)	10	9	20	39	16.1
Antibiotic resistance and susceptibility (55)	0	0	0	0	0
Biosynthesis of cofactors (160)	1	2	6	9	5.6
Carbon compound catabolism (172)	1	1	4	6	3.5
Cell division (29)	3	0	1	4	13.8
Cell wall/LPS/capsule (182)	4	0	2	6	3.3
Central intermediary metabolism (99)	8	0	7	15	15.2
Chaperones and heat shock proteins (56)	3	2	2	7	12.5
Chemotaxis (64)	0	0	0	0	0
DNA replication, recombination, modification, and repair (88)	2	1	7	10	11.4
Energy metabolism (208)	3	3	13	19	9.1
Fatty acid and phospholipid metabolism (62)	3	4	5	12	19.4
Hypothetical, unclassified, unknown (2002)	16	7	9	32	1.6
Membrane proteins (676)	2	4	2	8	1.2
Nucleotide biosynthesis and metabolism (87)	2	1	7	10	11.5
Protein secretion/export apparatus (124)	0	2	3	5	4.0
Putative enzymes (474)	2	1	1	4	0.8
Related to phage, transposon, or plasmid (65)	0	0	0	0	0
Secreted factors: toxins, enzymes, alginate (105)	2	1	0	3	2.9
Transcription, RNA processing, and degradation (55)	1	6	6	13	23.6
Transcriptional regulators (478)	3	0	5	8	1.7
Translation, post-translational modification, degradation (197)	8	17	46	71	36.0
Transport of small molecules (587)	0	3	5	8	1.3
Two-component regulatory systems (121)	0	0	1	1	0.8



identified 36% of the PseudoCAP functional class of translation, post-translational modification and degradation. Seventy-one of the 197 proteins belonging to this class were identified. However, most (46) were equally expressed by the two strains (**Table 1**).

We have also compared the proteins detected by iTRAQ with the location of the genes on the chromosome. As anticipated by our microarray analysis (Rao et al., 2008), in some cases proteins expression seemed to correspond to genes organized in operons. A particularly prominent region of the chromosome from PA4239 to PA4274, which encodes most of the 50S and 30S ribosomal subunits, were identified in our iTRAQ analysis (**Table S1B** in Supplementary Material). *In vitro* growth analysis, as determined by ribosomal content, has previously suggested that *P. aeruginosa* isolated from chronically infected patients grow as much as three-fold slower than laboratory strains such as PAO1 (Yang et al., 2008). Here in our iTRAQ analysis, we observed similar down-regulation of ribosomal proteins in strain 2192 (**Table S1A** in Supplementary Material).

The high detection of ribosomal proteins in both samples likely decreases the depth of detection of the total proteome and is a limitation of the current study. In light of this, one way to increase the depth of iTRAQ analysis may be to deplete the amount of translation associated proteins in a sample. Fractionations that remove the translational machinery may result in more unique analysis of a proteome. This idea is reminiscent of the recent push to deplete rRNA from total RNA samples for RNA-seq analysis. With the majority of a total RNA sample being comprised of rRNA, removal of rRNA can provide more unique sequence analysis. Application of ribosomal depletion to total protein samples may increase the depth of analysis of a proteome and is currently being investigated in our laboratory.

**Table 2** indicates selected proteins identified in iTRAQ analysis. Additional data representing the entire iTRAQ analysis is supplied in **Files S1** and **S2** in Supplementary Material. Since strain 2192 is mucoid, we would expect to see proteins such as those that play a role in alginate overproduction. Our proteomic analysis indicated that alginate motility regulator Z (AmrZ), AlgF, AlgC, and AlgD were upregulated in mucoid strain 2192 (**Table 2**). AmrZ, is a ribbon-helix-helix DNA-binding protein (Baynham et al., 2006) that can act as a transcriptional repressor (Tart et al., 2006) or enhancer of *algD* expression (Baynham et al., 1999). It was expected that AmrZ would be present as we had also observed its increased expression in our previous transcriptome analysis (Rao et al., 2008). AlgC is a phosphomannomutase enzyme which catalyzes the second step in the alginate pathway (Zielinski et al., 1991). AlgC converts mannose 6-phosphate into mannose 1-phosphate. Furthermore, AlgC is a phosphoglucosyltransferase involved in LPS synthesis (Coyne et al., 1994). Here we observed AlgC significantly upregulated in strain 2192 (**Table 2**). AlgD, GDP-mannose 6-dehydrogenase, converts GDP-mannose into GDP-mannuronate which is the precursor of polymannuronic acid (Tatnell et al., 1994). Another alginate enzyme, AlgF was also upregulated but not identified as significant due to low number of peptide identifications (**Table 2**). AlgF is one of three proteins that function to acetylate O-2 and/or O-3 of the mannuronic acid residues (Franklin and Ohman, 2002).

Acetylation changes the physical and immunological properties of the alginate (Pier et al., 2001).

In addition to identifying  $\sigma^{22}$ -dependent alginate production proteins, outer-membrane protein F (PA1777) was also upregulated in strain 2192 (**Table 2**). Previous studies have shown that OprF is upregulated in mucoid strains (Hanna et al., 2000; Malhotra et al., 2000) and is directly controlled by  $\sigma^{22}$  (Firoved et al., 2002). Thus, our shotgun proteomic analysis was validated by the identification of some known alginate biosynthesis proteins and AlgU-dependent proteins such as OprF that were upregulated in the mucoid 2192 strain.

When *P. aeruginosa* overproduces alginate, there would be high demands on the central metabolism to produce metabolic intermediates and such to fuel the high energy demand for alginate overproduction. In **Table 2**, a number of proteins are shown that have direct roles in metabolism. Additionally, we noticed a number of hypothetical proteins upregulated in 2192 some of which are shown in **Table 2**.

Several heat shock proteins were downregulated in strain 2192 (**Table 2**). GroES, HtpG, and GroEL were significantly downregulated. Previous work has shown that CF patients produce antibodies to GroEL (Ulanova et al., 1997). Other recent work has shown that heat shock proteins such as GroES and HtpG are actually downregulated in biofilms (Patrauchan et al., 2007). It is interesting that heat shock proteins may be differentially expressed depending on the growth conditions such as planktonic versus biofilm modes of growth.

Many total transcriptome analyses have examined the effect of  $\sigma^{22}$  expression (Firoved et al., 2002, 2004a, 1991; Firoved and Deretic, 2003; Wood et al., 2006; Wood and Ohman, 2009). However, here unlike other studies, we were also interested in proteins that have decreased expression in mucoid strains. In our iTRAQ analysis, three proteins which are components of one (HIS-I) of the three T6SS (Mougous et al., 2006) were downregulated in the mucoid strain. These proteins, TssB1 (PA0083), TssC1 (PA0084), Hcp1 (PA0085), have greater expression levels in non-mucoid strain 383 than in mucoid strain 2192 (**Table 2**). Hcp1 is secreted by the T6SS and has been found in CF sputum (Mougous et al., 2006). CF patients also have antibodies in their serum to Hcp1 (Mougous et al., 2006). Although the exact role of Hcp1 is not clear, it has been suggested that Hcp1 may form a channel through which macromolecules might pass and may be used for communication with the host (Mougous et al., 2006). Recently, the HSI-I system was shown to secrete Tse2 (PA2702) which is a toxin that arrests both prokaryotes and eukaryotes; however, Tse2 is targeted toward prokaryotes (Hood et al., 2010). We do not observe expression of Tse2 in either of our proteomic analysis or differential expression in transcriptomic analysis (Rao et al., 2008); however, *tse2* is present in the 2192 genome<sup>5</sup>.

RetS is a hybrid sensor kinase that controls expression of the T6SS in *P. aeruginosa*. Without the *retS*, all of the HSI-I genes are highly expressed (Goodman et al., 2004; Mougous et al., 2006; Ventre et al., 2006; **Figure 2**). Comparison of our previous transcriptome analysis to the transcriptome analysis of  $\Delta retS$  is shown

<sup>5</sup><http://www.broad.mit.edu>

**Table 2 | Selected proteins with differential expression between strains 383 and 2192 as observed by iTRAQ analysis.**

N <sup>a</sup>	PA loci	Name	Peptides <sup>b</sup>	2192-A/383-A		2192-B/383-B		Average AB <sup>c</sup>
				115:114	p Value 115:114	117:116	p Value 117:116	
285	PA3902	Hypothetical protein	1	6.75	0.0983	24.47		15.61
305	PA3819	Hypothetical protein	1	18.87	0.0927	9.32		14.09
283	PA3550	Alginate o-acetyltransferase AlgF	1	6.31		17.41		11.86
221	PA0315	Hypothetical protein	2	8.40		4.85		6.63
317	PA3031	Hypothetical protein	1	5.52		7.29		6.41
110	PA3385	Alginate and motility regulator AmrZ	5	9.90	0.0001	6.08	0.0066	7.99
32	PA3540	GDP-mannose 6-dehydrogenase AlgD	9	4.26	0.0003	7.27	0.0001	5.76
54	PA5322	Phosphomannomutase AlgC	7	5.91	0.0020	5.54	3.09E-05	5.73
134	PA3755	Ecotin precursor Eco	4	3.19	0.0409	2.75	0.0047	2.97
132	PA5060	Polyhydroxyalkanoate synthesis protein PhaF	4	3.07	0.0085	2.83	0.0017	2.95
164	PA1155	Ribonucleoside reductase, small chain NrdB	3	2.70	0.0014	1.52	0.0347	2.11
215	PA4922	Azurin precursor Azu	2	2.33	0.0096	1.79	0.0227	2.06
194	PA3471	Probable malic enzyme	2	2.22	0.0447	1.51	0.1020	1.87
34	PA0555	Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase Fda	9	1.89	0.0115	1.73	0.0004	1.81
88	PA0552	Phosphoglycerate kinase Pkg	5	1.74	0.0555	1.83	0.0016	1.78
119	PA3040	Probable DNA-binding protein	5	1.90	0.0051	1.47	0.0000	1.68
61	PA0962	Probable DNA-binding stress protein	8	1.56	0.0562	1.40	0.0018	1.48
128	PA1777	Outer-membrane protein OprF precursor	4	1.61	0.0397	1.34	0.0184	1.47
78	PA0625	Succinate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase GabD	6	1.62	0.0533	1.32	0.0347	1.47
44	PA3001	Probable glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	9	1.29	0.0247	1.55	0.0004	1.42
70	PA1165	Ribonucleoside reductase, large chain NrdA	7	0.96	0.6108	1.73	0.0010	1.35
18	PA1588	Succinyl-CoA synthetase beta chain SucC	12	1.27	0.0396	1.34	0.0067	1.30
20	PA2950	Hypothetical protein	12	1.12	0.2466	1.40	0.0001	1.26
45	PA4386	GroES protein	11	0.98	0.8852	0.84	0.0355	0.91
91	PA1586	Dihydrolipoamide succinyltransferase SucB	6	1.00	0.9967	0.77	0.0230	0.88
120	PA4315	Transcriptional regulator MvaT, P16 subunit	5	1.00	0.9881	0.70	0.0003	0.85
11	PA1596	Heat shock protein HtpG	20	0.84	0.0727	0.82	0.0056	0.83
142	PA4232	Single-stranded DNA-binding protein	4	0.65	0.0185	1.01	0.9193	0.83
273	PA5253	Regulatory protein AlgP	1	0.86	0.7890	0.66	0.1443	0.76
47	PA5016	Dihydrolipoamide acetyltransferase AceF	8	0.75	0.0127	0.80	0.0273	0.77
2	PA4385	GroEL protein	49	0.75	0.0000	0.69	0.0000	0.72
181	PA2853	Outer-membrane lipoprotein OprI precursor	3	0.69	0.1906	0.69	0.0376	0.69
38	PA1587	Lipoamide dehydrogenase-glc	8	0.46	0.0130	0.85	0.1952	0.66
206	PA3836	Hypothetical protein	2	0.65	0.1557	0.52	0.0231	0.59
58	PA1092	Flagellin type B FlhC	7	0.48	0.0275	0.68	0.0110	0.58
103	PA0085	T6SS protein Hcp1	4	0.31	0.0008	0.30	0.0002	0.30
244	PA0083	T6SS protein TssB1	2	0.54	0.2784	0.39	0.2798	0.46
248	PA0084	T6SS protein TssC1	2	0.42		0.61	0.1531	0.51

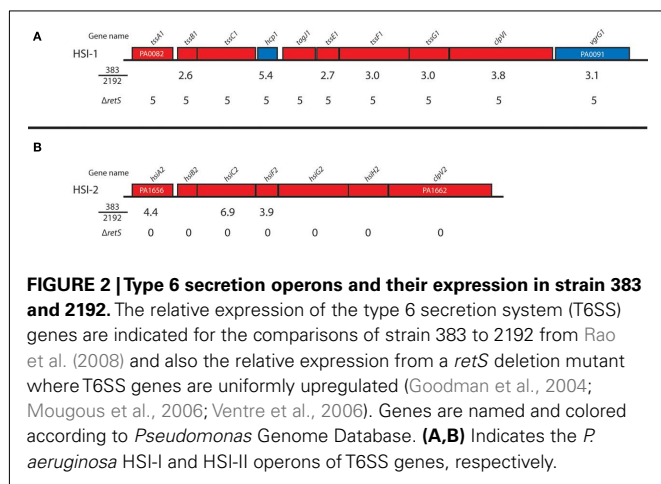
<sup>a</sup>This column indicates the protein number which corresponds to the raw iTRAQ **File S1** in Supplementary Material.

<sup>b</sup>This column indicates the number of peptides at 95% confidence.

<sup>c</sup>This column indicates the average of the two replicates. Proteins that show at least one replicate with a significant p value (less than 0.05) are colored red if the protein was upregulated or green if the protein was downregulated.

in **Figure 2**. It seems than non-mucoid strain 383 has increased expression of most of the HIS-I operon and the HSI-II genes *hsiA2*, *hsiC2*, and *hsiF1* (**Figure 2**). Furthermore, as mentioned, T6SS proteins TssB1, TssC1, Hcp1 were detected in iTRAQ analysis (**Table 2**). Also of interest, HSI-II genes were not affected by deletion of *retS*, but strain 383 has increased HSI-II expression of *hsiA2*, *hsiC2*, and *hsiF2* (**Figure 2**). These data suggest that mucoidy may suppress expression of Type 6 secretion machinery

in *P. aeruginosa*. To further corroborate this, examination of the literature revealed that inactivation of  $\sigma^{22}$  in a *mucA* mutant strain caused increased expression of HSI-I and HSI-II genes (Tart et al., 2005). In a recent study, extensive transcriptome analysis of early and late CF isolates revealed that, *tssB1*, *tssC1*, and *hcp1* were upregulated in non-mucoid derivatives of mucoid CF strains (Rau et al., 2010). Collectively, our data along with others suggested an inverse relationship between the T6SS and the mucoid phenotype of

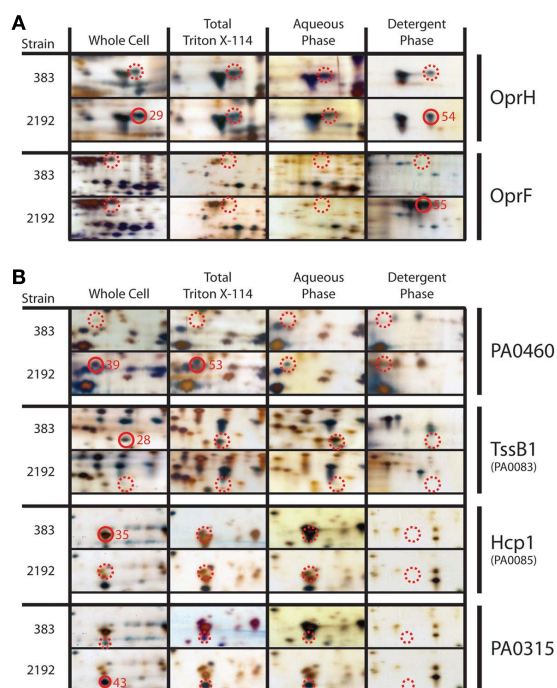


*P. aeruginosa*. It has been previously theorized that the T6SS may be used to out compete other bacteria and increase the fitness of *P. aeruginosa* for infection of the CF lung (Hood et al., 2010). The addition of mucoid phenotype to this model paints a picture whereby early non-mucoid isolates compete to initiate infection and then mucoid phenotype emerges, after which chronic infection can be established, negating the necessity of T6SS.

## 2-DE ELECTROPHORESIS WITH MS DETECTION OF TOTAL PROTEIN SAMPLES FROM STRAINS 383 AND 2192

One inherent drawback to the use of chromatography-based proteomics is potential bias due to association and elution of peptides during liquid separation. Theoretically, some peptides could be lost due to interactions during separation. The advantage of 2-DE analysis is that it gives the size and pI of the isolated proteins, whereas only protein fragments are detected by iTRAQ. To visualize protein differences between the non-mucoid strain 383 and the mucoid strain 2192, independent biological samples for each strain, 383 and 2192, were separated and representative examples are shown in Figure S2 in Supplementary Material. Spots with differential expression were visualized (Figure S3 in Supplementary Material) and quantified for each strain. The predicted size and pI were compared to that of the full-length protein sequences (Table S2A in Supplementary Material). A protein spot on 2-DE can contain multiple co-migrating proteins (Table S2A in Supplementary Material). To determine the proteins that make up a 2-DE spot, either PMM or mass spectral analysis or both were performed (Table S2A in Supplementary Material). PMM indicates the proteins that are the most abundant in a cored spot (Table S2B in Supplementary Material). MS/MS does not suggest a protein is the most abundant but rather identifies peptides that may correspond to the any protein in the cored spot. As expected half of the protein spots analyzed contained multiple proteins and some proteins were identified in more than one location (Table S2A in Supplementary Material).

Total protein lysates, as well as membrane, and extracellular protein enriched preparations, were utilized for 2-DE analysis. For membrane/extracellular preparations, Triton X-114 treatments as indicated in Section “Materials and Methods” were also employed to enrich for detergent-soluble hydrophobic membrane proteins



(Bordier, 1981). This method has been used in other bacterial proteomic studies (Sinha et al., 2005). 2-DE analysis revealed two outer-membrane proteins, OprH and OprF were differentially expressed between strains 383 and 2192 (Figure 3A). OprH and OprF spots were visible in the Triton X-114 enrichment as expected (Figure 3A). Previously, it has been shown that OprH protein is expressed in both mucoid and non-mucoid strains (Kelly et al., 1990; Hanna et al., 2000). Here, an OprH protein spot was observed in both strains but was visually more abundant in the mucoid 2192 strain than non-mucoid strain 383 (Figure 3A) however our densitometry did not corroborate this observation (Table 3).

One differential stained protein spot between mucoid strain 2192 and non-mucoid strain 383 (whole cell extract spot #39 and #53 Triton X-114 preparation) was a conserved hypothetical protein (PA0460; Figure 3B). Little to no information is available for PA0460 except that it has been shown to be five-fold upregulated



when the sensor kinase *phoQ* is deleted from strain PAO1 (Gooderham et al., 2009). Based on our data presented here (Figure 3B), PA0460 may be a secreted protein, as it was predicted with signal peptide at N-terminal 21 amino acids followed by a cleavage site (data not shown). Spot #43 from mucoid strain (2192) whole cell extract identified PA0315, another conserved hypothetical protein (Figure 3B). PA0315 was upregulated in 2192 and our densitometry corroborated this observation. Recent data suggests PA0315 may be a homolog to a quorum sensing regulated protein of *Burkholderia cepacia* (Riedel et al., 2003).

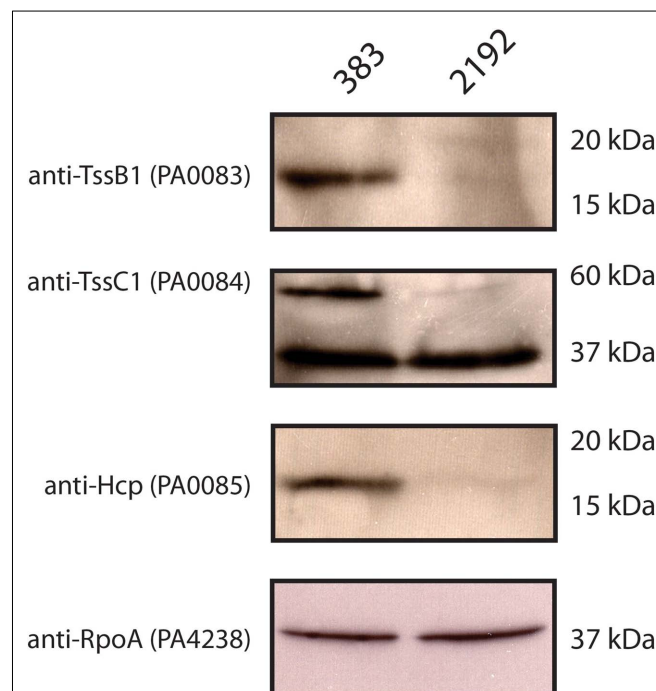
#### TYPE 6 SECRETION PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN STRAINS 383 AND 2192

Our previous transcriptome analysis had indicated a differential expression of T6SS proteins as described above. Furthermore, iTRAQ analysis revealed a significant decrease in Hcp1 in strain 2192. As expected, 2-DE gel electrophoresis confirmed our iTRAQ analysis (Table 2) that Hcp1 and TssB1 (PA0083) were increased in expression in 383 (Figure 3B and Table 3). However, more direct confirmation of this observation was necessary. For this, antibodies specific to TssB1 (PA0083), TssC1 (PA0084), and Hcp1 (PA0085) were used to quantify expression of the T6SS in CF strains 383 and 2192. In Figure 4, Western blot analysis is shown for TssB1, TssC1, and Hcp1. Antibodies specific for the alpha sub-unit of RNA polymerase (RpoA) were utilized as a loading control for the analysis. Western blot analysis confirmed iTRAQ and 2-DE and showed that TssB1 and Hcp1 were more highly expressed in the non-mucoid strain 383 than mucoid strain 2192 (Figure 4). Of interest antibodies for TssC1 (PA0084) suggested that TssC1 correlates with TssB1 and Hcp1 expression. These data suggest that strain 383 has increased T6SS protein expression than strain 2192 (Figure 4). Ultimately our data corroborate both the microarray and the two shotgun proteomic methods and show that the T6SS is differentially regulated in CF strains 383 and 2192.

#### CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The goal of this study was to obtain the proteomic profiles of *P. aeruginosa* non-mucoid strain 383 and mucoid strain 2192 to discover novel differences. To achieve this goal, we utilized a two different complementary proteomic techniques (iTRAQ and 2-DE) followed by MS analysis and correlated these results with

our previous transcriptome analysis (Rao et al., 2008). Microarray analysis elucidates the relative gene expression profiles between RNA samples; proteomic approaches such as iTRAQ and 2-DE/MS can validate microarray analysis and provide insightful information. As we expected these techniques identified proteins differentially regulated between strains 383 and 2192. However, we have also noted some limitations of these proteomic approaches.



**FIGURE 4 | Western blot analysis of Type 6 secretion system (T6SS) proteins in strains 383 and 2192.** L broth cultures were inoculated with the strains 383 and 2192 and grow at 37°C into log phase ( $OD_{600}$  0.5). Log phase whole cells suspended in L broth were added to equal volumes of 2× Laemmli buffer and subjected to separation by 12% SDS-PAGE and electro-transferred to 0.2 μm nitrocellulose membranes. Membranes were probed with the antibodies indicated. Molecular weight markers are indicated showing the relative migration of proteins detected. Shown is a representative of three independent experiments.

**Table 3 | Selected proteins quantified from core protein spots of 2-DE.**

PA no.	Protein	2-DE spot no.	Fold increase 383/2192 2-DE <sup>a,b</sup>	Fold increase 383/2192 iTRAQ <sup>a,c</sup>
PA0083	TssB1	28	4.06	2.2 (NS)
PA0085	Hcp1	35	1.14	3.3
PA0315	Hypothetical protein	43	ND <sup>e</sup>	0.61 (NS)
PA0460	Hypothetical protein	53	ND <sup>d</sup>	NI
PA1159	Cold-shock protein	46	1.1	1.1
PA1178	Outer-membrane H1	29	2.46	NI
PA1777	OprF	55	ND	0.7

<sup>a</sup>All the values are represented in log 2 scale and additional data can be found in (Table S2 in Supplementary Material).

<sup>b</sup>ND indicates that protein spot intensity was not measured in 2-DE gels.

<sup>c</sup>NS indicates not significant by iTRAQ analysis or NI indicates not identified.

<sup>d</sup>PA0460 fold increase is not indicated because PMM was not performed on spot 39, which contains other proteins (Table S2A in Supplementary Material).

<sup>e</sup>PA0315 fold increase is not indicated because PMM was not performed on spot 43, which contains other proteins (Table S2A in Supplementary Material).

For example, proteomic techniques such as iTRAQ and 2-DE currently do not give a complete protein profile. Our iTRAQ proteomic analysis gave expression data for only 4.8% of the ORF of strain 2192 consistent with other studies. In spite of this limitation, we were able to identify novel biological differences between isolates of *P. aeruginosa* from a single CF patient. iTRAQ and 2-DE analysis revealed a differential expression of the T6SS in strains 383 and 2192. In non-mucoid strain 383, proteins TssB1 and Hcp1 were observed with increased spot intensities. iTRAQ quantification data also indicated an increase in TssB1 and Hcp1. iTRAQ and 2-DE results were corroborated by Western blot analysis using T6SS antibodies for TssB1, TssC1, Hcp1 (Figure 4). Most of T6SS analysis has been performed with laboratory strains. Our data suggest 383 and 2192 may be useful prototype strains to further elucidate T6SS. Collectively, our data indicates an inverse relationship between the T6SS and the chronic mucoid phenotype which is controlled by  $\sigma^{22}$ .

Previously, among the 99 proteins that we identified in our proteomic analysis of PAO1, 9% were “hypothetical” and 6% were “conserved hypothetical” (Sherman et al., 2001). Furthermore, the *P. aeruginosa* pangenome (Mathee et al., 2008) and recent genome sequencing efforts indicate there are many ORF left to be characterized. Here among the proteins identified at least 25% were “hypothetical” or “conserved hypothetical”. We now refer to these as PUFs; since they have been confirmed by mass spectral analysis, the existence of these proteins are no longer hypothetical. This intermediate classification between hypothetical and characterized protein is important because it confirms the annotation of an organism. The *P. aeruginosa* reference strain, PAO1, currently contains 2002 hypothetical ORF. It is likely many of these proteins have been identified by proteomic approaches by various studies (66 were identified here) but searching the literature for each hypothetical can be difficult given the body of data in the public

domain. We believe that one potential way to facilitate the elucidation of PUFs into characterized proteins is to begin database compilation of the PUFs and the studies in which they were identified.

In conclusion, iTRAQ, 2-DE, and Western blot analyses indicated differential expression of many proteins between these two CF isolates. Multiple approaches directed focus on a differential regulation of T6SS proteins between the non-mucoid strain 383 and the mucoid strain 2192. We recognized that one limitation of this approach was the use of standard laboratory growth conditions. Future studies could utilize synthetic growth media that better mimic CF conditions.

Our study suggests that iTRAQ analysis provides insightful proteomic data, but we suggest it may be possible in the future to deplete translational machinery from the protein sample to increase the depth of analysis. Since proteomic analysis by iTRAQ or 2-DE requires known protein sequences, the recent explosion of deep sequencing may quickly increase power of shotgun proteomic analysis, which may assist in the determination of the functions of many PUFs in organisms such as *P. aeruginosa*.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at [http://www.frontiersin.org/cellular\\_and\\_infection\\_microbiology/10.3389/fmicb.2011.00162/abstract](http://www.frontiersin.org/cellular_and_infection_microbiology/10.3389/fmicb.2011.00162/abstract)

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- that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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